WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Production and distribution of genetically modified potato

†*263. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTRUE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests have cleared the new variety of G.M. (Genetically Modified) potato; and

(b) if so, the scheme of Government for production and distribution of this seed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been placed before the committee since limited field trials are still being conducted on some GM potato lines with better nutritional and processing qualities and disease resistance.

Maintenance of public amenities on railway stations

*265. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to ensure the cleanliness and maintenance of public amenities on railway stations;

(b) whether any system has been created to rate the stations on the basis of cleanliness and upkeep of public amenities;

(c) whether any system has been created to fix the responsibility on concerned officers for non-compliance of quality amenities on station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) To improve the standard of cleanliness at railway stations, steps like introduction of mechanised cleaning, provision of washable aprons, provision of 'Pay & Use' toilets, cleanliness awareness campaigns etc. have been undertaken. Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also to identify weak areas and take remedial measures. Drives are launched from time to time particularly during rush seasons to have greater impact.

Indian Railways have more than 8000 railway stations. All the stations have been provided with minimum essential amenities as per norms and according to the category of stations. Maintenance and further development of amenities is a continuous process and is carried out regularly.

(b) The best maintained stations in different categories with respect to upkeep of passenger amenities and cleanliness are rewarded annually by the zonal railways.

(c) and (d) There is a system of periodic inspections by multi-disciplinary Service Improvement Groups (SIGs) of appropriate level to monitor the upkeep of amenities and cleanliness and take immediate corrective action. Suitable action is taken against the staff found wanting in performance of their duties for maintenance of passenger amenities at railway stations.

Medical colleges in Nagaland

*266. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to set up medical colleges in Nagaland; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Central Government has